

Week of October 28, 2002: MDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Halloween Pedestrian Safety

Maine Halloween Pedestrian Crash Safety Facts:

- During the past 10 years, there have been 16 crashes on Halloween resulting in pedestrian injuries, including one fatality. Ten of the pedestrians were younger than 20 years old.
- Thirteen of the 16 crashes were during hours of darkness.
- The two leading factors in Halloween Pedestrian crashes are Pedestrian Error (a factor in 10 of the 16 crashes) and Driver Inattention/Distraction (7 of 16 of the crashes).

Monday

Tips:

What you wear can keep you safe. Here are some fashion tips that will keep trick-or-treaters injury-free:

- Make sure your costume has reflective portions on all sides.
- If possible, design or buy a costume that does not require a mask.
- If you wear a mask, make sure eye holes are large enough to clearly see ahead and to the sides.
- Masks can obscure what you can see, so when walking, remove the mask.
- Make sure you are wearing the right size shoes (even if it is a bit out of fashion with the rest of your costume.)
- Costumes should not be so long that they are tripping hazards.
- Avoid having items that can be tripping hazards or be a source of injury if you or someone else falls on them.

Wednesday

Tomorrow night will be a fun time to trick-or-treat. Much of that activity goes on at night. Keep it safe, making sure you can see and be seen. Here are some Halloween travel tips to remember.

Tips:

- Carry a flashlight (make sure you can see where you are going)
- Walk, do not run
- Walk on sidewalks or at a safe distance away from the roadway
- Obey traffic signals and other pedestrian rules of the road
- Walk in the opposite direction of vehicle travel
- Cross streets where you can be clearly seen by vehicles (do not cross in between cars)
- Do not bike or skateboard
- Let your parents know where you are going and when you will be home (and stick to that plan)
- Traveling in a group is best, but even then, everyone must pay attention to traffic.
- Just because a car stops in one direction to allow you to cross, carefully check traffic in the other direction. (Look left - right - then left again)

Vehicle Tips:

- Everyone, drive carefully, pay attention to the road and activity on both sides, keep speed down and watch for kids.
- Enter and exit driveways carefully.
- If you are driving kids trick-or-treating, have the children enter and exit the vehicle from the curb side.
- When stopping, do not block the road or regular vehicular traffic.

Friday - November 1

Covered a Deer Safety segment from the material used earlier in the month.